## **IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1.-5. (Cancelled)
- 6. (Currently Amended) A magnetic ink encoding stylus, comprising:

a penpoint adapted to apply magnetic ink to a surface; and
a magnetic ink write head, coupled to the penpoint and adapted to apply a
varying magnetic flux to the magnetic ink as it is applied by the penpoint to the surface.

7. (Previously Presented) A magnetic ink encoding stylus, comprising:

a penpoint adapted to apply magnetic ink to a surface; and

a magnetic ink write head, coupled to the penpoint and adapted to apply a
varying magnetic flux to the magnetic ink as it is applied by the penpoint to the surface
wherein the magnetic ink write head includes:

a magnetic field generator, and a magnetic shield.

- 8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the magnetic field generator includes a magnetic coil.
- 9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the magnetic coil is a wire coil.
- 10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a magnetic field director.
- 11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the magnetic field director includes an iron core element.

- 12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the magnetic ink write head includes a plurality of magnetic pole faces.
- 13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising a signal generator coupled to the magnetic ink write head.
- 14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the signal generator includes a <u>an</u> analog timing signal generator.
- 15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the signal generator includes a digital signal generator.
- 16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising a pressure sensor coupled to the signal generator.
- 17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising encoding electronics coupled to the magnetic ink write head.
- 18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a direction sensor coupled to the encoding electronics.
- 19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising a port adapted to be coupled to an external computer bus, said port coupled to the magnetic ink write head.
- 20. (Original) A computer system, comprising:
  - a computer, including
    - a processor;
    - a memory coupled to the processor; and
    - an external bus coupled to the processor; and
  - a magnetic ink encoding stylus, including
    - a penpoint adapted to apply magnetic ink to a surface;

a magnetic ink write head coupled to the penpoint and adapted to apply a varying magnetic flux to the magnetic ink as it is applied by the penpoint to the surface; and

a port coupled to the magnetic ink write head and to the external bus.

- 21. (Original) The computer system of claim 20, wherein the magnetic ink encoding stylus includes a signal generator.
- 22. (Original) The computer system of claim 20, wherein the magnetic ink encoding stylus includes encoding electronics.
- 23. (Original) The computer system of claim 20, wherein the computer includes: a graphics tablet coupled to the processor; and a handwriting recognition application coupled to the processor.
- 24. (Currently Amended) A method of storing information, comprising:

  applying magnetic ink on a surface; and

  applying a varying magnetic flux to the magnetic ink to store information in said magnetic ink as it is applied to the surface.
- 25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the information is digital information signal.
- 26. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the information is security data.
- 27. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein applying a varying magnetic flux to the applied magnetic ink includes:

generating a varying magnetic field corresponding to an information signal, the varying magnetic field intersecting the applied magnetic ink.

- 28. (Original) The method of claim 27, further comprising:
  responsive to sensing stylus pressure, generating the information signal.
- 29. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the information signal is a timing signal.
- 30. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the information signal is received from a computer.